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REMARKS

Applicant's representative wishes to thank Examiners Cobanoglu and Black for granting applicant's representative a telephone interview on January 24, 2007 to discuss the pending claims and potential amendments to the claims to clarify the invention and address the cited references.

In the Office Action dated October 4, 2006, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown (U.S. Patent No. 5,997,476) in view of Picardo (U.S. Patent No. 7,016,726). Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown (U.S. Patent No. 5,997,476) in view of Picardo (U.S. Patent No. 7,016,726), further in view of Allaire (U.S. Patent No. 5,341,812). Claims 1-10 are currently pending.

Claims 1-5

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the use of an intermediate device having a fixed resistor value.

Claim 1 now recites that the unique resistor value corresponds to the medical data collecting device (i.e., the home monitoring device) and that the fixed resistor value corresponds to the intermediate device (i.e., the "signal conditioner" as referred to in the specification). The claim now also recites that the operation performed is a division operation.

The claim also includes the limitation that a multiplexer in the intermediate device is configured to the appropriate output levels and bit rate that correspond to the medical data collecting device that is connected to the intermediate device.

Applicants assert that Brown and Picardo do not teach, show, or suggest the limitations of amended claim 1. For at least these reasons, applicants believe that claims 2-5 are also not taught, shown, or suggested by the cited references.

Claims 6-10

Claim 6 now recites that the unique resistor value corresponds to the diagnostic meter (i.e., the home monitoring device) and that the fixed resistor value corresponds to the intermediate device (i.e., the "signal conditioner" as referred to in the specification). The claim now also recites that the operation performed is a division operation.

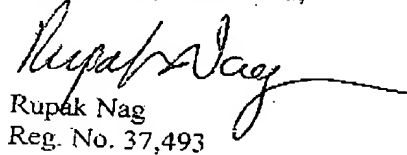
Similar to the amendments to made to claim 1, claim 6 also recites that a multiplexer in the intermediate device is configured to the appropriate output levels and bit rate that correspond to the diagnostic meter that is connected to the intermediate device.

Claim 6 has also been amended to explicitly include the steps previously part of the "thereby enabling the intermediate device to receive data" clause, which has been deleted. The claim now recites the specific steps taken to enable the intermediate device to receive data.

Applicants assert that Brown in view of Picardo and further in view of Allaire do not teach, show, or suggest the limitations of amended claim 6. For at least these reasons, applicants believe that claims 7-10 are also not taught, shown, or suggested by the cited references.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,


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